

## REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 14-16 have been amended. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for allegedly omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP §2172.01.

Applicants have amended claims 3 and 6. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,536 B1 (Kihl) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,086 B1 (Lomet).

Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended independent claims 1 and 14-16 are patentable over Kihl in view of Lomet, as neither Kihl nor Lomet, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests:

in response to a second delivery request from a second client on the network, consulting the log memory to retrieve log records of past replies that were made to inquiries about the same subject as a new pending inquiry stored in the inquiry buffer for delivery to the second client; and sending the second client the retrieved log records of past replies, together with the new pending inquiry directed to the second client

, as recited in currently amended independent claim 1, for example.

Although Kihl discloses inquiry messages, Kihl does not provide or suggest information regarding consulting a log memory, much less consulting a log memory to retrieve log records of past replies made to inquiries about the same subject as a new pending inquiry according to the process of claim 1, for example.

Lomet discloses a log file. However, the log file of Lomet is simply used in assisting to recover the client-side application when the system crashes. That is, in contrast to the present invention's log memory, the log file of Lomet is simply used to capture client-server interaction.

Therefore, claims 1 and 14-17 are patentable over Kihl in view of Lomet, as neither Kihl nor Lomet, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature of the claims of the present invention.

As the dependent claims depend from respective independent claims, the dependent

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claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kihl in view of Lomet and U.S. Patent No. 5,835,911 (Nakagawa).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2, via independent claim 1, is patentable over the combination of references, as Nakagawa adds nothing of relevance to the combination of Kihl and Lomet.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

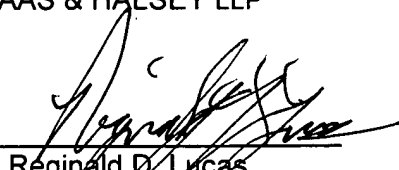
Respectfully submitted,

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